

From: Olsen, Briana L
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Pass Line: AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY
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Subject: Wikileaks: The Pirate Party's White Horse Into Sweden's Parliament?

1. (C) Summary: On June 29, poloff met with three members of the Pirate Party: [redacted] [redacted] They discussed the September 19 general elections and issues that might influence the Pirate Party's standing. Main points include:

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- The average Pirate Party staff are well-salaried professionals, independent from the party for income;
- Escalated media and Swedish government attention to Wikilinks is the "White Horse" for the Pirate Party to enter parliament.

Given the connection between Wikileaks and the Pirate Party (ref A), Post believes there is a chance Wikileaks may release classified U.S. documents regarding Sweden prior to the September 19 general elections. End Summary.

Who are the Pirates?

2. (C) The Pirate Party platform is a mixture between communism and libertarianism, said [redacted]. The party attracts members with differing political views, who are held together by the desire to protect individual privacy and freedom of speech. [redacted] said most Pirate Party staff are well-salaried professionals, often in

1.4(D)
B1

the technological sector. They are “savvy businessmen” who are unafraid of standing up to other politicians, and have the financial freedom to do so. (Comment: According to Pirate Party leader Rickard Falkvinge’s personal website, he is dependent on public donations for his “food and rent.” While some Pirates might be self-financed, the main spokesperson does not appear to have the freedom [redacted] mentioned. End Comment.) Prior to becoming Pirates, two of the three interlocutors were active in the Moderate Youth Party, the youth branch of the conservative party currently leading government. Falkvinge also is a former Moderate Youth member.

1.4(D)
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3. (C) The Pirate Party does not care who wins the election: “We don’t care about healthcare,” [redacted] said; what matters is which side will best protect personal freedom on the internet. He said in the next few weeks Falkvinge will submit to each political party a “score sheet” of items that are essential to Pirate Party ideology. The party that scores closest ideologically to the Pirates will be offered the opportunity to “partner” with the Pirate Party.

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Grim Electoral Outlook for Pirates...

4. (C) [redacted] said he gives his party a 20% chance of getting into Parliament this year, but in 2014 the odds will be much better. He gives the xenophobic Sweden Democrats a 50/ 50 chance of getting in, mostly due to what he believes is over-coverage in the media. If his party had the same media coverage, he opined, they would be polling much better than the 1-2% support shown in only the most favorable polls.

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5. (C) Nonetheless, the Pirates feel that they have been able to affect Swedish politics. All nine youth parties are for full legalization of file sharing, [redacted] said. Since the party’s creation in 2006, mainstream parties have become more cautious about laws affecting internet freedom and personal privacy. In 2006, newly-elected PM Reinfeldt said in an address that we “cannot criminalize a whole generation,” [redacted] offered. In October 2009, the sitting Alliance government experienced its largest political controversy (and ensuing dip in the polls) surrounding the passage of the FRA law to monitor all cable traffic sent through Sweden (ref B). The Pirate Party is also proud to have served as a role model for other pirate parties, such as in Germany and the Czech Republic, said [redacted]

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B1

...Unless Wikileaks Saves the Day

6. (C) [redacted] said the “U.S. request to the Swedish government to shut down Pirate Bay backfired” for the Swedes. Therefore, he thinks it unlikely the Swedish government will take any action against Wikileaks (such as shutting down its host server PRK) prior to the September 19 elections because of the “hell” that would be unleashed by internet freedom supporters, including his party. Nonetheless, [redacted] said the Pirates would relish such action, as the public outcry would create a surge in support for the Pirate Party at a crucial time and “take the Pirates into parliament on a White Horse.” Since its founding, the Party has enjoyed membership surges whenever the government of Sweden has acted in a manner that affects internet freedom, e.g. the May 2006 police confiscation of Pirate Bay servers (ref C), the October 2009 passage of the FRA surveillance law, and the April 2009 guilty verdict for the founders of Pirate Bay.

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Comment

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1.4(D)
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Signature: STEWART

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Page 3 of 3

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Page 3 of 3